

Dear Commissioners,

As a member of the educational media, I have been spending considerable time and energy discussing the issue of further consolidation with students and various others. With precious few exceptions, they are wholly unaware of the issue and the quite obvious bent of the Commission on further deregulation. It is this simple fact that should explain WHY it is CRIMINAL to further deregulate the industry. The very industry that you are considering deregulating is ALREADY using its control to simply remove the issue from PUBLIC discussion. If that does not represent monopolistic control counter to the public good, I don't know what could!

I understand that the Commission feels the additional sources of media (Cable, Satellite, Internet, etc...) have caused a thinning in the control that one media owner may have, but that is quite incorrect. Money drives control over the media. Mr. Murdoch is in the process of radically increasing his control over media with the purchase of the DirectTV system. How does THAT percentage of households factor into your ownership regulations? Various media groups are investors in satellite radio services. How do you account for that ownership? AOL/Time Warner is already a massive controller of media. How do you count it's access via the internet against its ability to own Radio/TV/Newspapers? Gannett is a monopoly in the local newspaper business, and your proposed regulations would allow them to do increase control by adding multiple Radio and TV stations in the same markets.

While I am in favor of a free-enterprise system, I believe that the PUBLIC GOOD that is supposed to be served in exchange for broadcasting power is being ignored. Commercial broadcasters that have become massive consolidated groups discard public service along with their disc jockeys. How could a station in Iowa, that is voicetracked by a DJ in Arizona, possibly provide local public service. Many stations no longer even have offices in their city of license. Given the scale to which they have been allowed to grow, and their impossible debt obligations, only those things which produce immediate and verifiable revenue can be considered in their operation. Public Service is not a revenue stream, it is an OBLIGATION in exchange for the license to broadcast.

It is the OBLIGATION of the FCC to protect the PUBLIC from its licensees and NOT the other way around. Please consider this when you consider further erosion of the limits on media power.

Thank you.